

# Radon Activity Badge Criteria

*A partnership with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the American Lung Association in Illinois*

**Purpose:** Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and kills nearly 20,000 people each year. This program is designed to encourage scouts to test their home for radon and get them acquainted with radon terminology. This badge can easily be earned as a group or as an individual.

## **What is Radon?**

- Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that is produced from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil.
- When radon gas enters buildings and is breathed in, decay products damage lung tissues and can result in lung cancer.
- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer for the general population, killing over 21,000 people annually.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level for radon is 4.0pCi/L. The only way to determine radon levels in buildings is to test.

## **Required:**

- **Parent or Troop Leader signature required, stating each of the following items have been viewed/read:**
  - View radon video contest videos online at [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov)
  - Read "The ABCs of Radon in Illinois" from IEMA at [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov)
  - Read "The Citizen's Guide to Radon" from USEPA at [www.epa.gov/radon/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html)
  - Read "Guidelines Radon Measurement in the Home" from IEMA at [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov) (Age 14 – 18 only)
- **Take/Pass quiz online**
  - Link to quizzes can be found at [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)
  - Email Kallie Sinkus for answer keys (see contact information below)
- **Choose ONE Activity Badge Project Option or design your own Eagle Scout Project**

## **Project Options (choose one):**

### **1. Radon at Home**

- Test your home for radon by following guidelines outlined in the test kit directions
- Read through "The Citizen's Guide for Radon" with parents and discuss results  
  
[www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf)
- Discuss your project, general radon information, test results, where they can purchase a test kit, etc.

### **2. Shadow a Radon Professional**

- Work with a radon measurement or mitigation professional while they're either performing a radon measurement or installing a mitigation system
- Write a 1-page paper documenting interview questions and answers throughout shadowing process

### **3. Video Contest (Age 14 - 18 only)**

- Develop a 1-minute video to participate in the Illinois High School Radon Video Contest
- Rules are found online at [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)

**4. Poster Contest/Radon Summary (Age 9 - 14 only)**

- Submit a poster in the Illinois radon poster contest
- Rules are found online at [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)

**5. 3-Panel Display**

- Design a 3-panel display including photos, graphics, and literature about radon
- Set-up display in a public location, including school, library, church, etc.

**6. Research Paper**

- Write a 2-page, double-spaced summary (noting sources) of one of the following topics: Stanley Watras, Radon Measurement, Radon Mitigation, or Illinois Radon Program.

**Resources:**

- Illinois Emergency Management Agency – [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov)
- American Lung Association in Illinois – [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)
- National Radon Poster Contest – <http://sosradon.org/poster-contest>
- Illinois Radon Poster and Video Contests – [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)

**American Lung Association in Illinois**

- All program documents (i.e. brochure, quizzes, reporting forms) are available online at [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org)
- For questions or general information please contact:
  - Kallie Sinkus  
Environmental Programs Manager  
[Kallie.Sinkus@Lung.org](mailto:Kallie.Sinkus@Lung.org)  
217.666.1667

# Radon Activity Badge Program Evaluation and Order Sheet



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Boy Scout    Girl Scout

Troop Leader's or Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Territory Name or Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of patches needed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Activities

Parent/Guardian/Troop Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Quiz Score: \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Activities

Project Option: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Project Description – Please provide home test results, video contest link, photo of project, etc., as well as favorite activities and lessons learned.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Please attach photos and any additional documents completed as a part of this program.*